

HONORING DR. CHARLES R. ROOTS'

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Dr. Charles R. Roots on his retirement and to recognize his tireless work as the Senior Pastor of the Free Methodist Church in Ripon. Ministering to thousands, Pastor Roots has earned the respect of fellow clergy and civic leaders alike.

Although born in New Haven, Connecticut, on September 5, 1948, he claims California as his home. In 1969, he began his military career as an enlisted Marine. He served with numerous commands during his nine years in the Marine Corps: AE-A School, NAS Jacksonville, Florida; VMFA 531, MCAS El Toro, California; VMCJ 1, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan; VMCJ1 det A (Cubi Point, the Philippines and Da Nang, South Vietnam); VMA 133, NAS Alameda, California; and 4th LAAM Battalion, Fresno, California. He was commissioned as a Navy Chaplain December 23, 1983. After attending the Navy Chaplain Corps Basic Course, NS Newport, Rhode Island, he served the following commands: Chaplain, MAG 39, MCB Camp Pendleton, California; Command Chaplain, USS *White Plains* (AFS4), NS Guam; Base Chaplain, NCS Stockton, California; Post-Graduate School, School of Theology at Claremont, California; and Chaplain at NS Rota, Spain. Within the active naval reserve he has served as: Chaplain, 1st MEFREL 220, Treasure Island, San Francisco, California; Battalion Chaplain, 1st Battalion 14th Marines Artillery, Alameda, California; Battalion Chaplain, 2nd Battalion 23rd Marines Infantry, Encino, California; Plans and Policy, Navy Chief of Chaplains Office, Washington, DC (The Pentagon); Command Chaplain, NARC, San Jose, California; and Command Chaplain, I MACE, Camp Pendleton, California.

In November of 2002 he was called back to active duty for two years in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) I & II. He served as the Commanding Officer of 1st MEFREL 220, NMCR Alameda, California. He was chosen by the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) as "Chaplain of the Year" for 2004. His last duty assignment was the Wing Chaplain for the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, New Orleans, Louisiana. He retired in September 2008 after 34 years of total service.

During his illustrious military career, he has received many awards, including: Legion of Merit; Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Meritorious Service Medal; Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal; Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2nd Award); Joint Meritorious Unit Award; Navy Unit Commendation; Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation; Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal; Navy Fleet Marine Force Ribbon; Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal; National Defense Service Medal with two stars; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Vietnam Campaign Medal with one star; Iraq Campaign Medal with EGA device; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal with EGA device; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal; Navy/Marine Corps Sea Service Deployment with three stars; Navy/Marine

Corps Overseas Service Ribbon; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with hour glass and Mobilization devices; Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with bracket and palm leaf; Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation with bracket and palm leaf; Vietnam Service Medal; Marine Corps Rifle Expert Badge; and Marine Corps Pistol Expert Badge.

During his service, he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Radio and Television Broadcasting from San Jose State University in 1976. He continued his education by graduating from Western Evangelical Seminary in Portland, Oregon with a Masters of Divinity in Biblical Studies in 1979. In 1995, he earned his Doctor of Ministry Degree in Pastoral Counseling from the School of Theology at Claremont. Charles R. Roots is an ordained minister through the Free Methodist Church of North America.

Dr. Roots settled in Ripon, California and is the Senior Pastor of the Free Methodist Church. As a volunteer, he serves as the chaplain for the Ripon Police Department and is a member of the International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC). In addition, he is the past president of the Ripon Ministerial Association; the Police Activities League (PAL); a past director of the Ripon Chamber of Commerce, and numerous other community organizations. He belongs to the Military Chaplains Association (MCA); The Naval Reserve Association (NRA); the Reserve Officers Association (ROA); the Marine Corps Association; the Marine Corps Club of Stockton, California; the Joe Rosenthal Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association (MCCCA); the vice president of the Ripon Arts League (RAL); and the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA).

During his spare time, he became a published author: *The Sandwich Generation: Adult Children Caring for Aging Parents*. He also writes a weekly column, *Roots in Ripon*, for the *Ripon Record* newspaper. He is currently writing a historical novel about his great grandfather, Rev. Daniel Thatcher Lake, a Civil War veteran and one of the last of the Circuit Riding Preachers in the South.

Dr. Roots is married to the former Isaura Maria Cabral of Los Banos, California. They have two married daughters, Laura Christine Spence and Jennifer Kathleen Sousa, and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Charles Roots for his unwavering leadership, and recognizing his accomplishments and contributions as Pastor of the Free Methodist Church. Dr. Roots serves as an example of excellence to those in our community.

HONORING MICHELLE MILLBEN

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to take this opportunity to thank one of the most dedicated members of my Judiciary Committee staff, Michelle Millben, for her service to both the Committee and the House of Representatives. This month she will be leaving to join the White House in the Office of Presidential Personnel as the Outreach and Recruitment Director (Congressional Affairs).

To say that Michelle is a multi-talented attorney would be an understatement. A native of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Michelle received her Bachelor's degree in Music Performance, with honors in the violin and piano, from Oklahoma City University. Her musical talent is evidenced by a strong performance resume, impressively amassed while pursuing her legal education. She has performed in gospel choirs backing up Bruce Springsteen's Super Bowl halftime show and also sang at concerts for President Obama on the National Mall and at his first inauguration. In addition, Michelle has appeared as a choral singer in TNT's "Christmas In Washington" and participated as a vocal performer in the annual Kennedy Center Honors, providing background vocals alongside music legends such as Sting, James Taylor, Mavis Staples, Steven Tyler, Carrie Underwood, Heart, and Garth Brooks.

Michelle realized a longstanding dream of coming to Washington by studying at the Georgetown University Law Center as a visiting student during her third year of law school. She was ultimately awarded her Juris Doctor from The University of Oklahoma College of Law in 2009 and joined the Committee staff that fall. Michelle has served as a key resource to Members and staff on both sides of the aisle. While working as an Oversight Counsel, Michelle focused on such issues as the foreclosure crisis, the Fair Housing Act, and oversight of the Department of Justice. After our transition to the minority, Michelle's portfolio grew to encompass matters impacting women and women's health, civil rights, voting rights, human rights, election administration, and campaign finance. Michelle had significant staff responsibility for important pieces of legislation, most notably the National Defense Reauthorization Act of 2011 (H.R. 1540), the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 2014 (H.R. 3899), and a number of significant civil rights bills that have promising bipartisan support. Michelle has also worked to spearhead efforts around the filing of amicus briefs on behalf of Members of the House Judiciary Committee in the landmark Supreme Court cases of *Shelby County v. Holder* and *McCutcheon v. FEC*.

While her work on the Judiciary Committee staff clearly evidences a strong commitment to Federal service, Michelle has also taken the time to focus on service to youth and families in her newly adopted home state of Virginia and the City of Alexandria. Michelle currently serves as a Commissioner for the City's Redevelopment and Housing Authority, which strives to provide affordable housing and economic opportunity for city residents, and also serves on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington's DC region. As an Associate Minister at the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church, Michelle also directs children's programs during the summer for the congregation's Vacation Bible School which gathers almost 1,000 people nightly during one week in June, while also leading music ministry to hundreds of students during their weekly Tuesday bible study at the church.

Michelle's energy and dedication to community service have not gone unnoticed. She was accepted into the Political Leaders Program Class of 2014 at the bipartisan Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership in Virginia. Michelle has been awarded the Dawn Lawson Leadership Development Award from the Virginia Leadership Institute, and was also